

Connection, solidarity in the face of danger

By Paul Kavanagh
Ambassador of Ireland

I extend warm greetings to readers of The Japan News on the occasion of St. Patrick's Day, 2022.

I would like to say a sincere "thank you" to the government of Japan alongside members of the National Diet — together with corporate, cultural, research, academic, media and other actors in Japanese society — for all that you do to build closer ties between Ireland and Japan. We in Ireland deeply appreciate your commitment and support.



Paul Kavanagh

This year we mark the centenary of Ireland becoming an independent State in 1922. Simultaneously we observe the 50th anniversary of our signing in 1972 the Treaty of Accession to what has grown to become the European Union. In recent polls, some 86% of Irish respondents say that our EU membership is a positive thing. Also this year, Ireland is an elected member of the United Nations Security Council and we are preparing to hold the Chair of the Council of Europe.

But the international backdrop to this month of March, 2022 has darkened drastically with the illegal, unjustified and immoral invasion of Ukraine, the resultant grave losses of civilian lives and the effective expulsion from the country of huge numbers of refugees.

Alongside the great majority in the international community, including Japan, Ireland stands in solidarity with

the brave people of Ukraine. We uphold the rule of law as a cardinal principle of the global order as reflected in the Charter of the United Nations.

In the 100th year of our own statehood, we strongly reaffirm the legal imperative for all states to respect the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states. We equally affirm the legal requirement of states in war to respect and uphold international law, in particular international humanitarian law, as reflected in the Geneva Conventions of 1949.



Courtesy of the Irish Embassy

Peter Burke, Ireland's State Minister for Planning and Local Government, visits Japan on March 13-16 as part of the annual global outreach by representatives of the Irish Government for St. Patrick's Day.

In this drastic international situation, we in Ireland are not so much moved this year "to celebrate" our national day as we are to advocate for a sense of solidarity towards those many countries and peoples which continue to battle with the COVID-19 pandemic and other debilitating phenomena, and especially towards the people of Ukraine whose towns and cities, still inhabited, are daily and systematically being reduced to smoking rubble by a vast military machine.

As part of the far-reaching, united European Union response to the invasion, Ireland extends solidarity and support to the people of Ukraine. We are anticipating that Ireland may receive up to 100,000 refugees from Ukraine in the coming weeks. As part of the EU-wide approach, they will enter Ireland visa-free. Upon entry, they and their families may obtain employment and access to our health, education and social support system.

The central message of our St. Patrick's Day 2022, is that Ireland is connecting anew with our communities and friends, both at home and around the world. Connection and community can help us all to overcome

the gravest danger. In some cases, solidarity and support are, in a word, imperative — not only in Ukraine, but also in certain other conflict situations in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and elsewhere. As an elected current member of the United Nations Security Council, Ireland has joined others in seeking to have the Council address such situations more effectively.

Meanwhile, Ireland and Japan continue to expand our bilateral exchanges in all leading domains. We expect that 2022 will be a big year in this connection. And for St. Patrick's Day 2023, we hope that readers will join us in person, in better international circumstances, once again to celebrate that which brings, and binds us together.

Readers are invited to join a virtual St Patrick's Day reception which will be streamed on ireland.ie/japan from 6 pm (JST) on 17 March. Follow the Embassy on social media:

@IrishEmbJapan

@IrishEmbJapanEN

and Facebook/Instagram: @IrelandinJapan



Artist's impression of the lobby area at the new Ireland House due to open in 2024



Happy St. Patrick's Day from Team Ireland in Japan!



Ambasáid na hÉireann | An tSeapáin
Embassy of Ireland | Japan
駐日アイルランド大使館



BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD



IDA
Ireland



**Tourism
Ireland**



**ENTERPRISE
IRELAND**
where innovation means business
アイルランド政府商務庁



Ireland Japan
Chamber of Commerce

331 Hotels as of 17 Mar., 2022,
with 72,504 Rooms



Happy St. Patrick's Day

**Toyoko Inn offers
"Cleanliness and Reliability
at Reasonable rates".**

 **toyoko-inn.com**
東横 INN

Toyoko Inn Online Reservation:
toyoko-inn.com 